



**IMPROVING THE EIGHTH GRADE STUDENTS' DESCRIPTIVE  
PARAGRAPH WRITING ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH REALIA AT  
SMP NEGERI 2 LUMAJANG IN THE 2010/2011 ACADEMIC YEAR**

**THESIS**

By

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**ENGLISH EDUCATION PROGRAM  
LANGUAGE AND ARTS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT  
FACULTY OF TEACHER TRAINING AND EDUCATION  
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**THESIS**

presented to complete the final exam and to fulfill one of the requirements  
to finish the English education program (S1) and attain Bachelor of Education

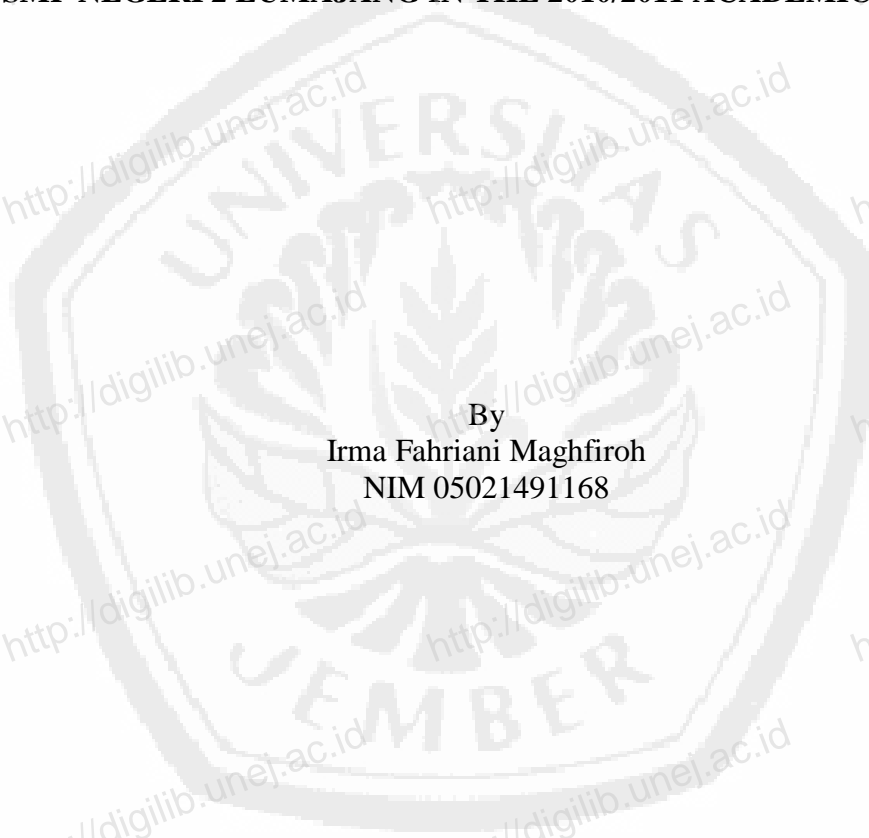
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**MOTTO**

**Allah will exalt in degree those of you who believe, and those who have been granted knowledge. And Allah is Well – Acquainted with what you do**

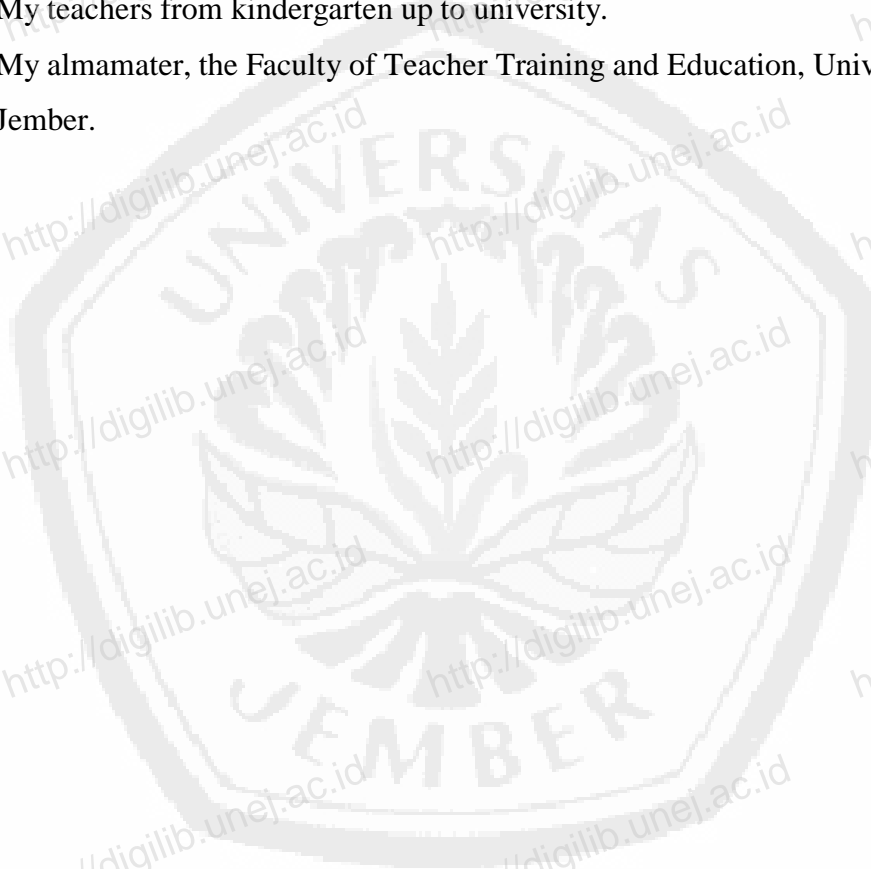
(The Holy Quran)



## **DEDICATION**

This thesis is honorably dedicated to:

1. My beloved parents, Muhammad Sholeh and Sri Tatik and my beloved sister, Khilmatur Rohmah.
2. My beloved husband, Indra Purwanto.
3. My teachers from kindergarten up to university.
4. My almamater, the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education, University of Jember.



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I do realize that this thesis would not be finished without the guidance of the people whom I owe a great deal of support, motivation, and suggestion. I would like to express my deepest and sincerest gratitude:

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2. The Chairperson of the Language and Arts Education Department;
3. The Chairperson of the English Education;
4. My academic advisor, Dra. Siti Sundari M.A.
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Finally, I do expect that it will be useful not only for me but also for the readers. Any criticism and suggestions from the readers for the improvement of this thesis will be fully appreciated.

Jember, March 2011

Writer



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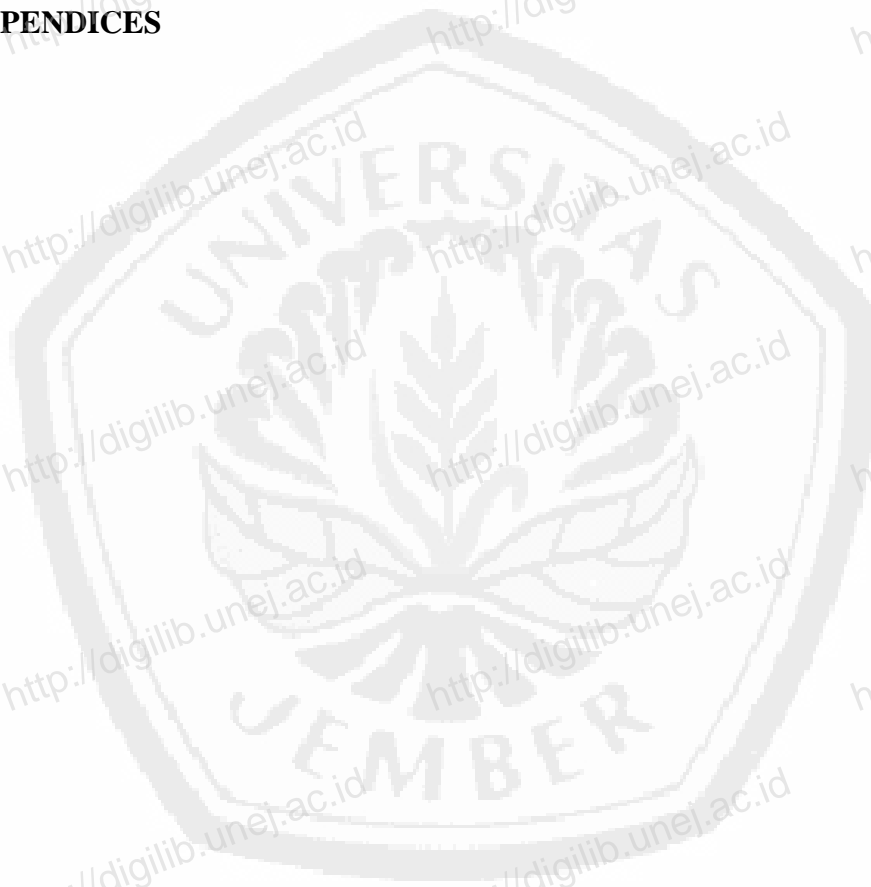
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## SUMMARY

**Improving the Eighth Grade Students' Descriptive Paragraph Writing Achievement through Realia at SMP Negeri 2 Lumajang in the 2010/2011 Academic Year;** Irma Fahriani Maghfiroh, 050210491168; 2011; 57 pages; English Education Program of Language and Arts Department of the Faculty of Teacher Training and Education of Jember University.

This Classroom Action Research was intended to improve the eighth grade students' descriptive paragraph writing achievement through Realia at SMP Negeri 2 Lumajang in the 2010/2011 academic year. This research subjects were the students of class Eight E that was determined purposively, because their writing achievement score was the lowest among the six existing classes which was below the standard mastery of English of the school that is 75. It was known from the result of the preliminary study, the interview, the classroom observation and the students' previous writing score. Besides, they also still experienced difficulties in the areas of vocabularies, tenses or structure masteries, mechanical skills, organization and content of the paragraph. As a result, they experienced difficulties in composing writing in English. Finally, both the researcher and the English teacher agreed to apply realia because this learning media was suitable and appropriate to overcome the students' problems in writing.

This research was carried out in two cycles. Each cycle covered the stages including planning of the action, implementation of the action, classroom observation and evaluation, and analysis and reflection of the action. These activities were conducted in each cycle. The first cycle was conducted in three meetings including the writing test. The data of the students' writing achievement were collected through the writing test. Meanwhile, observation was used to monitor the teaching learning process of writing by using checklist.

The results of the students' writing achievement in the first cycle showed that the percentage of the students who got score 75 or more was 54.28%. In addition, the results of observation in Cycle 1 revealed that only 54.05% out of 37 students actively participated in the teaching learning process of writing by using

realia. The rest of the research subjects (45.94% of 37 students) were passive in joining the lesson. They were reluctant to ask questions and answer the teacher's oral questions. Besides, some students did not pay much attention to the lesson; some students tend to talk to their friends and making any noise. Based on those results, it could be concluded that the action done in the first cycle was not successful yet. Therefore, the actions were continued to the second cycle by revising the lesson plans in the first cycle by considering the students' weaknesses and errors they made on the writing test in the first cycle. In Cycle 2, the researcher showed another realia and gave more explanation about descriptive paragraph including its elements (generic structure and lexico grammatical features) and its example. Besides, the researcher gave them more opportunities to ask questions. The results of the students' writing achievement test in the second cycle showed that 85.29% out of 34 students got score 75 or more. It improved from 54.28% in Cycle 1 to 85.29% in Cycle 2. Besides, there was also an improvement on the percentage of the students' active participation in the teaching and learning process of descriptive paragraph writing by using realia. It improved from 54.05% in Cycle 1 to 81.08% in Cycle 2. It means that both the students' writing test and the students' active participation in the teaching and learning process of writing by using realia improved in the second cycle and fulfilled the success criteria of this research. Thus, the action research was ended.

Based on the results above, it could be concluded that the use of realia in the teaching learning process of descriptive paragraph writing could improve the students' writing achievement in two cycles. Then, it is suggested to the English teacher and the students to apply realia as an alternative media in teaching and or practicing writing. It is due to the fact that realia could improve the students' descriptive paragraph writing achievement. At last, for the future researcher, this research could be used as references to conduct further research dealing with the same or different aspects of the English skills, research area, or research design in other schools to develop the quality of the teaching learning process of writing.

## **CHAPTER 1. INTRODUCTION**

This chapter presents background of the research, problem of the research, operational definition of the terms, scope of the research, objectives of the research, and significance of the research.

### **1.1 Background of the Research**

English is an international language that plays an important role in communication. It is used by most people from different nations around the world. In Indonesia, English has become one of the most important foreign languages learned by students at schools. It has been taught from elementary schools up to universities. It means that English is the most widespread language in the world.

As stated in the Institutional Level Curriculum / Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP 2006), "one of the objectives of teaching English in junior high schools is to develop the communicative competency, both spoken and written to reach the level of functional literacy" (Depdiknas, 2006:278). It means that to achieve this goal, the four language skills, namely: listening, speaking, reading, and writing as well as the three components, that is grammar, vocabulary, and pronunciation should be taught effectively in order that students can master English well. In addition, in writing skill, it is also stated in the Institutional Level Curriculum / Kurikulum Tingkat Satuan Pendidikan (KTSP 2006) that the standard competence of writing is "expressing the meaning of written functional texts and short simple essays in the form of descriptive and recount to interact with the social environment" while the basic competence is "expressing the meaning and the rhetorical steps of short and simple essays in the written form by using various written language accurately, fluently and acceptably to interact with